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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Dec. 6, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 3--Again this week, the best fruit buys include moderate supplies of apples, grapes and grapefruit, as well as plentiful supplies of low priced limes.

Avocados are probably the next best buy with supplies moderate and prices going down gradually.

Pears are still in moderate supply at the same prices, but cranberries are rather unpopular--mainly because they use considerable sugar. However, if you have some extra sugar available, you'll find it less expensive to make an extra serving of sauce because cranberries are going down in price.

Lemons continue to be scarce and high. Oranges, too, remain fairly high priced, but it is encouraging to note that Navels are slowly getting lower.

Tangerines are almost in moderate supply now but are still high priced.

For the most part, vegetables are lower priced this week. Among the good buys we find cauliflower to be one of the best, celery, onions and potatoes. Brussels sprouts are fairly low priced now and along with eggplant, lettuce, and more abundant supplies of both soft and hard squash constitute the week's fair buys. While the prices on winter squash are about unchanged, both the Italian and summer squash prices are considerably below those of last week.

(MORE)

For the three-day period of trading, last week's total salable livestock receipts on the South San Francisco wholesale livestock market were only a small fraction more than half as large as those of the previous week. Some Choice beef carcasses from the Auction Sale of the Livestock Show found their way into coolers and brought prices three to four dollars higher than the limited supply of regular Choice grades. The greater part of the week supplies of cow beef were plentiful. Veal supplies were made up of fairly liberal offerings of Commercial to Choice grades, with Choice grade the less plentiful. There was a fairly liberal slaughter of lamb, while ewe mutton was in only moderate supply and narrow demand. More fresh pork was available and it was expected that there will be more sliced bacon and smoked ham as supplies become heavy enough to cure. All in all, there seems to be enough meat to go around.

Generally, markets on dairy products are unsettled. As the result of price drops on Eastern markets, the San Francisco wholesale price on Grade A (92 Score) butter dropped 5 cents yesterday to a level of 81 cents per pound.

Light receipts of eggs are being supplemented by shipments from other Pacific Coast areas and from the central Western states. Even so, supplies are unable to keep up with the demand, which is heavier and favors top grades. Yesterday Grade A Small eggs went up 2 cents per dozen to bring 47½ cents per dozen. Otherwise no price changes have been made from a week ago.

Turkeys have held the attention of the poultry market during this past week. Supplies for the holiday were large and sold under a strong demand at prices up 1 to 2 cents per pound, dressed weight, for young hens and toms. In equally good demand were large sized fryers and roasters at unchanged prices.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Dec. 13, 1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 10—In taking a look at the week's fruit supply, we find that the picture is slightly changed. Grapefruit remains the top listing, while lower prices on oranges move small sized oranges into second place.

Into the next best group fall apples at prices a shade higher, avocados now in moderate supply and moderately priced, Emperor grapes with the best quality slightly higher, and pears at unchanged prices.

Lemons are still scarce and high, while tangerines are in moderate supply and slightly lower priced.

Among the vegetables onions and potatoes continue to take top billing as the week's best buys.

But there are a number of fair buys to include broccoli, cabbage at a lower price, plentiful supplies of cauliflower slightly lower, celery up a little in price, and eggplant at prices down a little.

Now that some good quality Arizona lettuce is coming to market, prices are somewhat lower to make lettuce a fair buy, too.

Winter squash at the same prices is a fair buy, while soft squash is slightly higher priced this week.

Sweet potatoes are little changed and retain their slightly higher prices.

What tomatoes are available now are mostly from Texas and Mexico — with a few from the Imperial Valley — and if they are of good quality, they are rather high in price.

(MORE)

Considerably larger total salable livestock receipts on the South San Francisco wholesale market this past week found beef to be in more liberal slaughter. The general quality was near to pre-war standards, while demand was sufficient to make a daily clearance of supplies. Daily supplies of veal were fairly ample although the general volume was somewhat less. Quality ranged largely Good and Choice with a small amount of Utility and Cull grades. Liberal offerings of lamb experienced less demand and the demand for ewe mutton was rather narrow. A heavier hog slaughter saw supplies of fresh pork cuts become more plentiful. In addition, smoked ham and bacon was fairly well distributed.

On an active market this past week, Grade A (92 Score) butter regained 2 cents of the 5-cent price drop taken and is selling at 83 cents per pound. But Grade B (90 Score) is 2½ cents lower at 77 cents per pound.

Receipts of fresh eggs continue to be moderate, while demand remains good at prices unchanged from Tuesday of last week.

With the exception of ducks and geese, (which are 3 to 4 cents higher on ducks and 5 cents higher on geese, both live and dressed) there is less demand for poultry. As a result, prices are on a lower trend. Although live fryers and roasters are up 1/2-cent, dressed small fryers are 1 cent lower and roasters are 3 to 4 cents below last week. Dressed broilers also are 3 to 4 cents per pound less. Turkeys are in slightly less demand, but they are unchanged in price.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Dec. 20,1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 17--The toe of the Christmas stocking will bulge this year with small Navel oranges as this item is one of the good buys on the market along with grapefruit and limes. We might mention that most of the grapefruit on the market today is coming from Arizona but this week saw a few Coachellas arriving. As far as limes are concerned, this tiny, green, tart fruit is still in good supply and priced for the average pocketbook. Try using limes in place of lemons which are in rather light supply right now, even though they cost a little less this week.

Tangerines are fairly plentiful and selling at a lower price and that is good news for those who like to decorate their Christmas tables with this bright orange fruit. Grapes, on the other hand, are scarce so you won't be able to festoon very many bunches on your table centerpiece.

Apples are in moderate supply and here is another fruit that usually finds its way into the Christmas stocking, decorations, or food plans. A combination of bright red cinnamon apples and minted green pears are favored garnishes for the holiday season. Pears, however, are in light supply right now.

And it wouldn't be the holiday season without cranberries in sauce, mold, relishes and salads. One of our Christmas gifts from the produce market this year is a lower price on this item which is now in moderate supply. Also as a special treat, a few pineapples and bananas are available.

Leading the vegetable best buy list are Brussel sprouts, low in price, cauliflower, eggplant (slightly lower), dry onions, potatoes and Banana squash. In moderate supply are broccoli, cabbage, celery (slightly lower), lettuce, Italian squash and sweet potatoes which have gone up a bit. Good quality tomatoes are in light supply and high in price, and the same is true of snap beans and artichokes.

The outstanding development on the livestock market this week was the big pickup in the slaughter of hogs. This in turn increased the supplies of pork loin roasts, spareribs and shoulder cuts and as a consequence prices went down on these items. Also as a result of this larger hog slaughter, more prospective ham and bacon went into cure. More good news as far as ham and bacon is concerned is the fair distribution of many of the old familiar brands of these products throughout the market. These have been shipped in from all over the country. Supplies of beef were ample, mostly Good or Commercial Grade, but there was a little less meat stamped Choice this week.

Last week we reported that butter had gone up from 2 to 2½ cents but this week this item has taken another drop -- 4½ cents on Grade A (92 Score) butter, 4 on Grade B (90 Score). The two reasons behind this drop are the continued so-called "consumer resistance" plus the fact that there is more butter on the market today.

As far as eggs are concerned, mediums are the best buy for your holiday cooking as there is a good supply of this size and the price is right. Remember that if medium size eggs cost one-eighth less than large eggs, they are as good or better buy.

A larger supply of young chickens has come into the market here from the nearby producing areas and as a result the price is down. Leghorn hens are also in good supply and selling at a lower price, while the heavy colored hens have gone up.

When you pick your Christmas turkey, choose a tom, if the family is large enough as there is a good supply of these larger birds and the price is lower whereas the smaller sized hens are not so abundant on the market.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Dec. 27,1946)

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24--This week tangerines have jumped up to a best buy spot along with grapefruit and small Navel oranges. When planning your holiday menus, don't forget to serve broiled grapefruit occasionally, sweetened with white or brown sugar, honey or maple syrup and dusted with cinnamon if you like.

This week we can list avocados among the fruits in moderate supply and a fairly good buy. Apples and cranberries also fall into this category too. And speaking of cranberries, we'd better use them now as they'll be disappearing from the market very shortly. While they are low priced, it would be a good idea to can a few for future reference.

On the light supply list are persimmons, pears which have gone up a little in price, bananas, pineapples and grapes, scarce these days.

For your holiday dinners, choose from cauliflower, celery, onions and potatoes as these are not only in good supply but also are relatively inexpensive. Eggplant has dropped down to the moderate supply list and is a little higher. The same is true of peas, sweet potatoes and green peppers. There is a fairly good supply of lettuce and the price remains unchanged. Broccoli and cabbage also are fairly good buys. The price of tomatoes has gone down a little and you can find them in the market in moderate supply.

Beans, cucumbers, and soft squash are in light supply these days and higher priced. The price on artichokes remains the same but there has been no increase in the number appearing on the market.

(MORE)

Holiday dinners may well feature roast goose, duck, turkey or chicken as there is a good supply of these favorites. As far as turkey is concerned, you'll pay less than you did at Thanksgiving time, particularly in the case of heavy toms. If a large turkey will mean that your family will eat leftovers for a week, why not make arrangements with your meat dealer to split one of the heavy toms.

You can buy all the eggs you need for holiday cookies, cakes and beverages as there is a good supply on hand in anticipation of your needs. You may find that the price on large and medium eggs is down a little while small eggs remain just about the same. We're getting more large and mediums in the market.

As you know, the price on butter dropped sharply this week. This can be attributed largely to increased local production along with larger receipts of this item from the Midwest and the fact that the public is not buying so much butter these days.

Two meat items that are appearing regularly on the counters at present are bacon and ham and that's good news for all devotees of bacon or ham and eggs for breakfast. All pork cuts have gone down in price, particularly pork loin roasts. There is a good supply of beef available, mostly Good and Commercial grade with only a limited amount of Choice. Veal is rather scarce while there is ample supply of lamb and mutton.

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